

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ARJUN VASAN,
Plaintiff and Counter-Defendant,
v.
CHECKMATE.COM, INC.,
(dba "Checkmate")
Defendant and Counterclaimant.

Case No.: 2:25-CV-00765-MEMF-ASx

Hon. Maame Ewusi-Mensah Frimpong

**[PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING
PLAINTIFF ARJUN VASAN'S MOTION
FOR SANCTIONS UNDER FED. R. CIV. P.
11, 28 U.S.C. § 1927 AND THE COURT'S
INHERENT POWERS**

Hearing date: January 8, 2026

Time: 10:00 A.M.

Courtroom: 8B

Complaint Filed: January 28, 2025

The Court, having received and reviewed Plaintiff Arjun Vasan ("Plaintiff")'s "Notice of Motion and Motion for Sanctions" (Dkt. 121), the papers, exhibits and declarations submitted in support or opposition thereof, and the arguments of the parties, HEREBY ORDERS:

I. PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR SANCTIONS IS GRANTED

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 11, 28 U.S.C. § 1927, and the Court's inherent authority, the Court finds that Defendant Checkmate.com, Inc. ("Checkmate") and its counsel of record have engaged in sanctionable conduct. The Court finds that Checkmate and its counsel have advanced counterclaims for an improper purpose, based on legal theories not warranted by existing

1 law (namely, by relying on evidence barred by FRE 408), and advanced factual allegations lacking
2 evidentiary support (e.g. misstating contracts, misattributing statements, and fabricating damages).

3 **Therefore, IT IS ORDERED as follows:**

4 Based on the facts known to Checkmate and its counsel at the time the Counterclaims were
5 filed, the Court finds that no reasonable attorney would have believed that the challenged allegations
6 and damages theories had a tenable factual or legal basis. Counsel for Checkmate is FORMALLY
7 ADMONISHED for vexatiously multiplying these proceedings with an improper purpose.

8 Pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1), all allegations in Checkmate's Counterclaims (Dkt. 71) that are
9 based on, quote from, or otherwise rely on pre-litigation settlement communications and dialogue;
10 that misstate or misleadingly paraphrase contracts; or party-opponent statements are STRICKEN.
11 Checkmate is PRECLUDED from re-asserting the stricken allegations in any future pleading.

12 Checkmate is further ORDERED TO SHOW CAUSE as to why its Counterclaims should not
13 be DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE due to the conduct raised by the motion.

14 Pursuant to the Court's inherent power and 28 U.S.C. § 1927, Checkmate and its counsel are
15 jointly and severally ORDERED to pay Plaintiff's non-attorney, out-of-pocket costs associated with
16 bringing this Motion. Plaintiff shall file a declaration itemizing these costs within 14 days. Plaintiff
17 shall include in this declaration an accounting of hours spent contesting the counterclaims.

18 Pursuant to Rule 11(c)(4), and to deter future misconduct, Checkmate and its counsel are
19 ORDERED to pay a monetary penalty to the Clerk of the Court within 30 days of such accounting,
20 equal to reasonable attorney's fees calculated as if Plaintiff was represented in this matter.

21
22 IT IS SO ORDERED.

23
24 Dated: _____, _____

25 _____
26 MAAME EWUSI-MENSAH FRIMPONG

27 United States District Judge
28